

AMENDMENTS TO LB 358

(Amendments to Final Reading copy)

1 1. Insert the following new section:

2 "Sec. 44. (1) The Legislature finds that the number of
3 people voting in recent years has steadily decreased and that
4 voting is a core principle of democracy. Therefor it is the intent
5 of the Legislature to establish the Vote Nebraska Initiative to
6 examine why citizens are not voting and what the state can do to
7 encourage voter turnout.

8 (2) The Vote Nebraska Initiative is created. The members
9 of the initiative shall examine why voter turnout continues to
10 decline, what voter education resources exist, what resources could
11 be established to engage the voter and encourage voter turnout
12 among minority and young voters, what roles the media and schools
13 play in voter education, and what the media and schools can do to
14 increase voter education.

15 (3) The Vote Nebraska Initiative shall consist of the
16 following members:

17 (a) The Secretary of State;

18 (b) The Chairperson of the Government, Military and
19 Veterans Affairs Committee of the Legislature;

20 (c) Two individuals employed by the media, one appointed
21 by the Nebraska Broadcasters Association, and one appointed by the
22 Nebraska Press Association;

23 (d) Two members of minority communities appointed by the

1 Secretary of State;

2 (e) Up to three residents of Nebraska appointed by the
3 Secretary of State;

4 (f) Three teachers employed by public schools who have a
5 background in teaching social studies appointed by the Commissioner
6 of Education, one employed by an elementary school, one employed by
7 a middle school, and one employed by a high school;

8 (g) One representative of postsecondary education with a
9 background in political science appointed by the Secretary of
10 State;

11 (h) A member of the League of Women Voters appointed by
12 the league;

13 (i) Three election commissioners or county clerks
14 appointed by the Secretary of State;

15 (j) One member of the Democratic Party appointed by the
16 state chairperson of the Democratic Party; and

17 (k) One member of the Republican Party appointed by the
18 state chairperson of the Republican Party.

19 (4) The members of the Vote Nebraska Initiative shall
20 meet within sixty days after the effective date of this act and
21 elect a chairperson from among the members. For administrative and
22 budgetary purposes, the initiative shall be located in the office
23 of the Secretary of State. Members shall be reimbursed for their
24 actual and necessary expenses as provided in sections 81-1174 to
25 81-1177.

26 (5) The Vote Nebraska Initiative report with
27 recommendations to the Legislature shall be issued by December 31,

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- 1 2004. This section terminates upon issuance of the report."
- 2 2. On page 1, line 14, after the semicolon insert "to
- 3 create the Vote Nebraska Initiative; to provide powers and
- 4 duties;".
- 5 3. Renumber the remaining sections accordingly.